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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable James H. Quillen House of Representatives Cannon House Office Building Room 102 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quillen:

This is in reply to your letter of February 3, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u> are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

Ralen A. Haller

Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures: Notice Order Discussion paper

cc: Chief, PRBureau Chief, LM&MDivison Docket Files, Room 222 P&P Branch File (Pink)

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JAMES H. QUILLEN

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February 3, 1993

92-235

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you regarding the FCC's proposed revision of Private Land Mobile Radio services and policies. I have been contacted by some of my constituents who are concerned that the changes under consideration in the band of frequencies from 72 to 76 megahertz would adversely affect their hobby, model aviation.

I understand that frequencies allocated to model aviation comprise only a small part of the spectrum in question, and that a drastic shift in those frequencies would render much existing model aviation equipment obsolete. I would hope that any changes made by the FCC would take into account the specialized needs of the many people who enjoy this hobby.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, and I would appreciate being advised of the FCC's decision.

Sincerely,

Office of Legislative Affairs Federal Communications Commission Room 808 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554